

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 15, 1979

10B

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
FROM: THOMAS THORNTON
SUBJECT: Argentinian Human Rights

I gather that there is a considerable amount of history to your relations with Ms. Derian on the subject of Argentina and don't have any idea of how you want this handled. The proposed reply at Tab A may do the trick. If you want something warmer (in one sense or the other) let me know. Perhaps you would prefer no answer.

Her memo and the Bar Association study are at Tab B. Frankly, I haven't mustered the courage to read it yet.

Pastor concurs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

ZB signed
4/19/79

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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IPS by Q Date 12-5-16



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

June 7, 1979

Dear Mr. Brzezinski:

I hope you will read the enclosed report on human rights conditions in Argentina prepared by the Association of The Bar of the City of New York. Its study mission, led by Orville Schell, visited Argentina in April, and the report reaffirms the grim reports we have had from many quarters about Argentina's "disappeared," whose ranks include numerous lawyers:

"There is no question that since March 24, 1976, groups of armed people serving in military, police, or other state security forces have abducted thousands of people, subjecting most of the victims to torture, killing many, holding others in concentration camps or other secret places, and withholding from their families and all the world word either of their whereabouts or of whether they remain alive." (p. 26).

The report terms the fate of the "disappeared" the "most starkly brutal human rights violations in Argentina or, indeed, almost anywhere in the world that seeks to be civilized." There has been no accounting on the missing, and the report sees few signs of progress in government circles toward curbing the practice or even facing the problem (pp. 31, 36). Disappearances continue (p. 27).

The Honorable
Zbigniew Brzezinski,
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs,
The White House.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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The report also covers prisoners detained under Argentina's State of Siege provisions, a review of prison conditions and treatment of prisoners, and the role of the Argentine bar and judicial system.

I thought you should have a copy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'P. Derian', with a large, sweeping initial 'P' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Patricia M. Derian
Assistant Secretary for
Human Rights and
Humanitarian Affairs

Enclosure:

Report.

LORD, DAY & LORD

25 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10004

(212) 344-8480

CABLE ADDRESS
LORDATTY, NEW YORK

May 24, 1979

Hon. Patricia M. Derian
Assistant Secretary for Human
Rights
Department of State - USA
Washington, D.C. 20523

Dear Ms. Derian:

On behalf of the mission of lawyers that recently visited Argentina at the request of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the American Bar Association, I wish to thank you for the assistance you and your office gave us. Our briefing session with you and others prior to our departure was especially helpful in preparing us for our meetings in Argentina.

We have just completed our report of the mission, and I have enclosed two copies for the use of your office. We are very interested in hearing any comments regarding our findings you or your staff might have.

Sincerely yours,



R. Scott Greathead

RSG:amg
Enclosures

cc: Mark Schneider

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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Human Rights (HR), 7/78-7/80